

COUNTRY East Germany 25X1
 TOPIC KVP Engineer Unit in Fuenfeichen near Neubrandenburg
 EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A
 DATE OF CONTENT 15 April to 5 June 1953
 DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 6 July 1953 25X1A
 REFERENCES
 PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)
 REMARKS

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1. From 15 April to 3 June 1953, VP camp Fuenfeichen was still occupied by about 600 engineers. Major Kiesslich (fnu) was commanding officer of the camp. Major Krause (fnu) was unit commander as previously. Grabentin (fnu) of undetermined rank, also served as unit commander. Further improvement of the camp was halted for lack of funds. Engineer equipment available to the unit included four large pneumatic boats and trenching tools. Beginning about 20 May, four pontoons were trucked twice a week from the direction of Neustrelitz and, upon completion of practices on Tollensee (lake), were reshipped. The practices usually involved each two pontoons which were interconnected and, on their rear end, mounted an engine each. The troops stated that they had long expected heavy bridge building equipment to arrive. They also mentioned equipment for the construction of a bridge below the water surface which consisted of triangular construction sections. Motor vehicles available to the unit consisted of 10 trucks and 7 cross-country cars The unit expected to soon move to the summer camp. 25X1
 2. From 23 May to 5 June 1953, a KVP engineer unit, allegedly a regiment, was stationed at Camp Fuenfeichen. Major Kiesslich was made commanding officer after the previous commanding officer who was a major and bearer of the Knight's Cross had been disciplined. Major Krause who was battalion commander subordinate to Kiesslich was sacked as was Senior Lieutenant Windisch (fnu), a previous Polit officer. The two had allegedly listened to western broadcasts. Other officers serving with the unit included Senior Lieutenant Petzold (fnu), as chief of staff and Senior Lieutenant Giesler (fnu), as administrative officer with the regiment. Eight Soviet advisors ranking as majors and captains were assigned to this regimental headquarters. 25X1
 3. A civilian employee stated that the engineer regiment was organized into 4 battalions with 4 companies each, 1 headquarters company and 1 instruction company, with each company numbering 50 men. On 27 May, the entire ration strength was 1,200 men. The soldiers wore black-bordered olive green epaulets. Eight trucks were observed at the installation. Soviet advisors were seen riding sedan 25X1

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- 25X1 4. During the period of observation the engineer units were repeatedly seen engaged in practices with boats and pneumatic rafts on the lake east of the club house building. [] noticed steam pile driver on 26 May. On 4 June, 12 pontoons were on the northern bank of the Tollensesee (lake) near an engineer training site located there. Truck [] was seen being 25X1 loaded with lumber. []

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- 25X1 1. [] Comment. The engineer battalion, commanded by Major Kiesslich, 25X1A is subordinate directly to Armee Gruppe Nord. [] 25X1
2. [] Comment. It is possible that the engineer battalion of Armee Gruppe Nord may be converted into an engineer regiment. Up to about May 1953, the installation mentioned quartered the engineer battalions of the division in Frenzlau under the command of Major Krause and of the mechanized division in Eggesin under the command of Major Teller (fmu). It can rather safely be stated that these battalions were not subordinate to Major Kiesslich who possibly exercised the functions of a senior officer. Senior Lieutenant Windisch was previously reported as PK officer and Senior Lieutenant Petzold as chief of staff with the battalion of Major Kiesslich. The information on organization and strength of the engineer unit must be accepted with reserve.

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